Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 13921 191742Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------104030 191744Z /42
O 191730Z AUG 77 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7487

S E C R E T LONDON 13921

NODIS-

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1/2/3
TAGS: PARM, SF
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 197389, (B) PRETORIA 4211

1. GIST OF SOUTH AFRICAN REACTION TO OUR DEMARCHE (REFTEL B) AND TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER (PARA 2, REFTEL A) WERE PROVIDED TO FCO AUGUST 19 IN MEETING INVOLVING JOHNNY GRAHAM, MARTIN REID OF FCO CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA DESK AND JOHN EDMONDS OF FCO ARMS CONTROL DEPARTMENT.

2. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION WE WERE TOLD THAT SCOTT, UK AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA, WILL NOT PRESENT UK LETTER UNTIL AUGUST 22. HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE BEING DRAFTED, AND WE WERE TOLD THAT THEY WILL EMPHASIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE MATTER QUALIFIED TO THE EXTENT OF STATING "IF THE REPORTS ARE TRUE." BRITISH DO NOT PLAN TO REFER TO EVIDENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM AND WILL HEW TO THE "IF TRUE" VEIN, SINCE THE UK DOES NOT ITSELF POSSESS EVIDENCE. MOREOVER, SCOTT WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO URGE SOUTH AFRICAN ACCESSION TO THE NPT.
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3. BRITISH HAVE ASKED US IF SCOTT COULD REFER TO KNOWLEDGE OF THE BOWDLER-BOTHA EXCHANGE AND WE SAID WE WOULD SEEK GUIDANCE IN TIME FOR THE BRITISH TO TAKE IT INTO ACCOUNT IN PREPARING THE INSTRUCTIONS TO SCOTT. TO MEET THIS REQUEST, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE AUGUST 20.

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4. BRITISH, MOREOVER, WOULD LIKE IF POSSIBLE TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION ON US DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH ON THIS MATTER, AND DETAILS ON WHAT THE FRENCH HAVE SAID TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS. ADDITIONALLY, THEY WOULD WELCOME INFORMATION WE CAN PROVIDE ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRG.

STREATOR

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DEMARCHE, ALLEGATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NUCLEAR TESTS, NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 8-19-77
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: n/a
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Reference: 77 STATE 197389, 77 PRETORIA 4211
Retention: 0
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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